

## John Verell to Andrew Jackson, May 11, 1805, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JACKSON'S AGREEMENT WITH JOHN VERELL FOR PURCHASING "TRUXTON".<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The following advertisement in the *Impartial Review*, Mar. 16, 1809, gives the pedigree of Truxton, the most famous Tennessee horse of his day, with other interesting information about him:

"The celebrated high bred running horse TRUXTON NINE years old in May next, 15 hands 8 inches high, and in point of form equal to any horse in America; will stand the present season to commence the 15th of March, and end the last day of July, at my stable 11 miles from Nashville. Terms 30 dollars, payable in merchantable ginned cotton at the Nashville market price, delivered by the first of January next, but may be discharged by the payment of 20 dollars within the season; insurance double the sum: 10 dollars the single leap paid down—one dollar to the groom for each mare—pasturage gratis for all mares sent from a distance, but not answerable for accidents or escape. Notes for the amount of the season of each mare is expected, and cannot be dispensed with.

Feb. 28, 1809.

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Pedigree.

"Truxton is a beautiful bay full of bone and muscle, was got by the old imported horse Diomedes, come of a genuine and thorough bred mare Nancy Coleman, the property of maj. John Verrel of Virginia. I certify that I have trained the above mentioned horse

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Truxton, and with truth can say, that I believe him in point of speed and bottom equal to any distance horse in America.

April 1st, 1806.

Samuel Pryor.

“Truxton, a stud horse raised by me and sold to general Andrew Jackson of the state of Tennessee: I do hereby certify, was got by the imported horse Diomede, which said horse is in higher estimation than any horse ever imported into the state of Virginia, and his offspring stand higher on the list of turfnags than any other blood in Virginia, and I believe (as the general opinion) in America. Truxton's dam Nancy Coleman, was got by Young Fearnought, her dam (Latonia) by Old Pardner, her grand dam by the imported horse Jolly-Roger, her great grand dam by the imported horse Skim, out of a barb mare. Given under my hand this 10th day of March 1806

J. Verrell.

“I do hereby certify, that Truxton a bay stud horse badly scarified on the withers by a fitula, and to the best of my recollection, both hind feet white to the footlock, and bred by mr. John Verrell of Dinwiddie county, Virginia, near Petersburg; was got by the imported horse Diomede, when he stood in my stable in the spring 1799, and come out of a mare of said Verrell's known by the name of Nancy Coleman. Given under my hand this 31st March 1806.

Virginia, Chesterfield county.

Thomas Goode.”

In the season of 1807, from March 15 to July 31, Truxton stood “under the superintendence and management of Mr. John F. Clay” in the suburbs of Nashville, “on the hill adjoining town near the college seat”. The advertisement was signed by

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Jackson. In the affair with Dickinson, in the spring of 1806, Jackson spoke of himself, W. P. Anderson, Verell, and Samuel Pryor as the owners of the horse. Pryor, it appears from the advertisement, was the man who had trained him for the turf. Truxton was a running horse.

On the later stage of Truxton's existence, see Robert Butler to Jackson, Apr. 20, 1817.

May 11, 1805.

Memorandum of an agreement made this 11th. day of May 1805 between Genl Andrew Jackson of the State of Tennessee, and John Verell of the State of Virginia. (Viz) The said Verell; hath sold to Genl. Jackson his Diomed stud horse (Truxton) for the sum of Fifteen hundred Dollars; that is to say Genl Jackson is to step into the said Verells place and pay off and settle a debt due by said Verell (on which an attachment is levied) to Humphries assinee of Caldwell; which said debt is now estimated at nine hundred and seventy Dollars and to pay the further sum of two hundred Dollars towards the discharge of a Judgt. against the said Verrell obtained in behalf of Charles J Love on which judgment an Execution is Issued amounting in both sums to Eleven hundred and Seventy Dollars, and the said Jackson hath paid the further sum of one hundred and thirty Dollars in one gelding and doth agree to pay the remaining sum of two hundred Dollars in the ensuing fall in two good hundred dollar geldings. and it is further agreed and understood that the said Jackson is: in case the horse Truxton should win a purse or match in the fall ensuing, to pay the said Verrell the further sum of two hundred dollars in gueldings; in addition to the aforesaid sum of fifteen hundred Dollars. Witness our hands and seals the day and date above the words in the ninth line from the bottom, "the remaining sum of Two hundred dollars" interlined before signed

Jn. Verell Andrew Jackson

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